

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. APPLN. NO. 09/589,880
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q59306

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 have been examined on their merits.

The Examiner objects to claims 5 and 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 5 and 13 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant herein cancels claims 5 and 13 without prejudice and/or disclaimer, and includes their recitations in claims 1 and 9, respectively. Applicant further amends claim 15 to include recitations similar to the amendments to claims 1 and 9. Entry of the amendments to claims 1, 9 and 15 is respectfully requested, since entry of the amendments will place the application in form for allowance.

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14, 15 and 17-20 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ozawa *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,137). Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-12, 14, 15, 18 and 19 for at least the reasons discussed below.

Applicant herein cancels claim 5, and includes its recitations in amended claim 1. The Patent Office had previously indicated that a combination of claims 1 and 5 would be allowable over the prior art of record. Applicant submits that claim 1 is now allowable, and further submits that claims 2-4 and 6-8 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-8.

Applicant herein cancels claim 13, and includes its recitations in amended claim 9. The Patent Office had previously indicated that a combination of claims 9 and 13 would be allowable over the prior art of record. Applicant submits that claim 9 is now allowable, and further submits that claims 10-12 and 14 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 9. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of claims 9-12 and 14.

Applicant herein amends claim 15 to include a recitation that correction information is inputted from a freely loadable recording medium and on which is correction information obtained from the image forming apparatus. Applicant submits that amended claim 15 is allowable for at least reasons analogous to those for amended claims 1 and 9. Applicant submits that claim 15 is allowable, and further submits that claims 18 and 19 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 15. Applicant respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of claims 15, 18 and 19.

2. Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ozawa *et al.* Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 17 for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 17 depends from independent claim 15, which has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that correction information is inputted from a freely loadable recording medium and on which is correction information obtained from the image forming apparatus. Applicant submits that claim 17 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 15. Applicant respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claim 17.

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3. Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ozawa *et al.* in view of Nonoshita *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,610,726). Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 20 for at least the reasons set forth below.

Claim 20 depends from independent claim 15, which has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, that correction information is inputted from a freely loadable recording medium and on which is correction information obtained from the image forming apparatus. Applicant submits that claim 20 is allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 15. Applicant respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claim 20.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

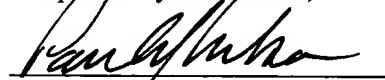
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